

**From:** Michael Brewer  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft has hurt the consumer, and stifled the computer industry as a whole with its anticompetitive actions. The current settlement proposal is heavily weighted towards Microsoft's advantage.

Asking Microsoft to pay reparations to the citizens of the United States by giving to education is noble. However, the details of the arrangement leave much to be desired.

Microsoft should not be allowed to use any of its products as tender for repayment. This allows Microsoft to repay the taxpayers of this country by increasing its market share, which is counterproductive to any anti-trust resolution. Furthermore, Microsoft is able to produce their software from an infinite resource. Any cost in providing software to the educators would be negligible whether the software is delivered through a physical (CD-ROM) or virtual (network) medium. Allowing Microsoft to settle its punishment with copies of its own software is akin to allowing them to print their own money. If Microsoft is to offer goods rather than money as a repayment, they must be products of another company, and must not contain any Microsoft products.

This settlement also addresses the issue of Microsoft's behavior in a poor fashion. Microsoft is allowed to have an internal team that is responsible for making sure they stick to the conditions of the settlement. Furthermore, Microsoft gets to choose the primary officer of this team, and in turn that officer has input on the selection of the rest of the team. This is not an effective means of controlling a company that has previously shown its willingness to disregard conditions placed upon it. I agree that the team should have an internal presence within the organization so that they may have better insight into the company's actual tactics. But Microsoft should have no input into the members of the team. Instead individuals from the computer industry should be allowed to submit themselves to a court which will make the decision on behalf of the citizens of this country.

Another failing of the proposed settlement is the fact that it does not address unbundling of Microsoft's key technologies for extension of their monopoly from their operating systems. During the trial Microsoft made strides in integrating even more technologies into Windows XP in order to extend their monopoly into other areas including digital photograph processing, and user authentication. Any acceptable settlement needs to address the current abuses by Microsoft, as well as placing restraints on using their monopoly to take over other segments of the computer industry.

Regards,

Michael Brewer